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of said hollow needle.

REMARKS

Original claims 2-46 have been canceled, and new claims 47-60 have been added. Original claim 1 has been retained in the application for filing purposes, to satisfy the requirement that one originally filed claim be retained. Examination of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The invention within the scope of the claims of the above-identified application covers broadly a biopsy instrument comprising a needle rotatably attached to a housing, and a cutter for severing multiple samples of tissue received sequentially in a tissue receiving port in the needle. Significantly, the tissue receiving port is positionable to multiple angular positions about the longitudinal axis of the needle for receiving the tissue samples upon rotation of the needle relative to the housing. Applicants are unaware of any art, considered individually or in combination, which teaches or suggests the claimed invention.

By way of example, Applicants wish to point out that the scope of the claimed invention is not limited in any way by how the severed tissue sample is transported from the biopsy site. Further by way of example, the claimed invention covers any biopsy instrument within the scope of the claims, including such an instrument where the needle is removed from the biopsy site after each tissue sample is taken.

There is support generally in the specification of the above-identified application for claims 47-50 and 53-56 at page 21, lines 5-12; page 28, lines 15-30; and page 23, line 21 to page 26, line 26. There is specific support for claims 53 and 54 at page 28, lines 21-30. There is specific support for claim 55 at page 28, lines 20-21. There is specific support for claim 56 at the sentence bridging pages 23 and 24.

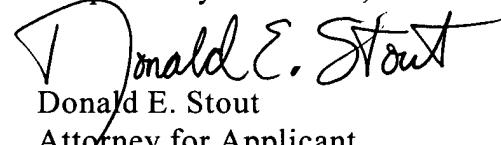
A-1186CN1
Preliminary Amendment
Page 6

There is support in the specification for claim 51 at the paragraph bridging pages 23 and 24. There is support for claim 52 at page 31, line 31 to page 32, line 4. There is support for claims 57-60 at page 21, lines 21-27; page 23, lines 21-31; page 24, lines 10-15; page 26, lines 4-6; and page 28, lines 25-27.

Although support for the claims is found specifically in the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments portion of the specification, as pointed out at page 35, lines 5-7, the described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive of the scope of the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for examination, and earnestly solicit an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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